

Little Wood Swallow at Ellendale.—Serventy & Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edition, 1967) give the southern limit of the Little Wood Swallow (*Artamus minor*) as the Murchison River gorge and the Gnows Nest Range. On June 15, 1974 we observed a party of about eight Little Wood Swallows at Ellendale, flying close to the cliffs on the southern bank of the Greenough River; this extends the species' published range by about 120 kilometres. However, the ironstone breakaway habitat favoured by the species further inland is very much the same as that provided by the Ellendale cliffs. About the same number of birds has been seen at Ellendale by one of us (L.E.S.) on July 28 and August 18, suggesting that the flock is resident rather than vagrant.

—ERIC H. & LINDSAY E. SEDGWICK, Geraldton.

Dusky Moorhen at Leonora.—A single Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*, was captured in the waiting room of the Leonora railway station on April 15, 1975. The bird appeared to be slightly injured, but, when released at the edge of Lake Raeside, moved off smartly.

There was no doubt of the identification. Field notes show a grey-black bird, with white undertail coverts, greenish legs, and yellow beak with a red frontal shield.

The bird no doubt reached the Leonora area as a consequence of the flooding of the Lake Raeside lake system 6 weeks earlier, when the North-eastern Goldfields received between 250-400 mm of rain in a few days. Lake Raeside received waters from as far west as north of Youanmi and reached a width of 3 kilometres south of the town. The flooding of lakes throughout a large area of the interior of the state allowed the bird to travel over 400 kilometres from its regular haunts.

—DON REID, Leonora.

Singing Bushlark in the Northeastern Goldfields.—On December 17, 1974, when 13 kilometres east of Duketon, in an area of open mulga, largely *Acacia aneura*, I noticed two immature Black-throated Butcher-birds plucking a small bird wedged in a branch fork. On investigation, I found a neatly plucked body of a Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*, wedged in the fork by the head. The head and neck were still feathered, and the tail feathers on the ground were still recognisable. Identification was made on the following characteristics: beak, short and somewhat finch-like, pinky-brown in colour; tail feathers short in proportion to the body. Pale eyebrow in finely ornamented head feathers.

The presence well south of its regular distribution may probably be attributed to the two exceptional seasons the centre and the goldfields experienced in 1973 and 1974, which led to a spectacular growth of grasses and annuals throughout. It would have been easy under these conditions for a species to expand its distribution, even temporarily.

—DON REID, Leonora

Red Plumed Pigeon in the Carnarvon Ranges.—An extension in recorded range of the Red Plumed Pigeon, *Lophophaps ferruginea*, is indicated by my sighting two parties of these birds at Katjera Spring in the Carnarvon Ranges, approximately 3 kilometres east of Mt. Methwin, on May 15, 1975. A party of at least 10 was flushed at the western end of the rocky range containing the spring. First knowledge of their presence was their 'explosive' flight overhead. They rapidly came to ground in very broken quartzite country. Later in the afternoon, two birds were sighted on the *Triodia*-covered hill pediment north of the spring, apparently heading to water.

In both sightings, it was quite clear that the birds had a brown breast and abdomen.

The area lies about 300 kilometres NE of Meekatharra. The ranges are the easternmost large hills of the Proterozoic sequence and occur toward the southern boundary of the Nabberu basin. It is probable that small populations of this bird occur throughout to the north and west wherever the right habitat occurs.

—DON REID, Leonora.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) near Leonora.—A visit to Malcolm Dam, 7 miles east of Leonora, on November 3, 1974, led to my recording two Marsh Sandpipers. Two medium-sized waders were noticed on the north side of the dam, on a broad, recently emerged flat, in company with 10 Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).

The birds were later approached on foot, and observed from 50 up to 20 metres. The Banded Plovers flew off, leaving the sandpipers by themselves, feeding along the water's edge. My field notes are as follows:—2 Sandpipers, somewhat smaller than a Banded Plover. Black, long, straight bill, yellowish-green legs. Faint speckling on sides of shoulders forming a saddle. Speckled wing coverts. Pronounced white eyebrow mark. White forehead. White rump and tail while flying. Call a 'tehew-tehew-tehew'. Time of observation 1630 WST. Observed through 7 x 50 binoculars.

The size of the birds, the white rump and tail, leg and bill colour are diagnostic of *Tringa stagnatilis*. Their sighting so far inland is easily explained by the exceptional winter rains throughout the North-eastern Goldfields in 1973 and 1974. The numerous water-filled lakes and claypans have formed a favourable habitat for several of the migrating waders. Lack of observers rather than lack of birds in this area is no doubt responsible for the paucity of previous records.

—DON REID, Leonora.

Supplementary Notes on Turtledoves, *Streptopelia*, in Western Australia.—A summary of the results of an inquiry into the introduction and spread of the turtledoves in Western Australia appears in the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 6, 1958, pp. 90 and 112, and in vol. 9, 1965, p. 153. The following are a few personal observations made during the ensuing ten years. *Streptopelia senegalensis* is now more properly called the Laughing Dove, and *S. chinensis* the Spotted Dove, but to avoid confusion I have retained the older vernaculars—Senegal Turtledove and Indian Turtledove—to conform with the earlier articles.

HARVEY: Senegal—This species appears to have increased slightly in numbers and is no longer confined to a limited area immediately north of the main shopping centre. Up to six birds frequent my garden on the southern edge of the town.

Indian—I first saw this species in Harvey on December 3, 1970. The only prior record of which I am aware was in 1956. On November 5, 1972, a bird appeared at my home and continued to frequent the area until mid-August 1973. A bird was recorded in July 1974.

ROCKINGHAM: Senegal—This species has increased greatly in numbers at Point Peron where they nest and roost in, and generally frequent, the thickets of Coast Wattle, *Acacia rostellifera*. I saw 14 birds together, apparently assembling to roost, in April 1966.

WILLIAMS: Senegal—This species appeared to have a tenuous hold in 1955. While passing through the town in May 10, 1974, I saw one dove fly to a pine tree by the Albany Highway.

The following previously unrecorded localities have come to my notice:

KONDININ: Senegal—One noted on September 6, 1966.

KULIN: Senegal—One noted on May 28, 1971.

MEENAR: Senegal—Noted from train on January 28, 1967.